

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2181

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #33, AUGUST 17-24

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2. BURMESE PRESS ON NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

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8. VIETNAMESE TRADE DELEGATION IN RANGOON
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1. PRIME MINISTER'S NAN SPEECH (CONF)

THE FULL TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN'S NAN COLOMBO
SUILIT MEETING SPEECH WAS CARRIED IN RANGOON NEWSPAPERS
AUGUST 19. (A COPY HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EA/TB.) FOLLOW-
ING ARE THE SPEECH'S MOST SIGNIFICATNT POINTS:

-- "WHILE INCREASING MEMBERSHIP IMPARTS GREATER
STRENGTH AND ADVANTAGE TO THE MOVEMENT, IT ALSO IMPOSES
HEAVIER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SENSE THAT A GREATER
DEGREE OF RESTRAINT AND MODERATION, RESPECT FOR AND
TOLERANCE OF ONE ANOTHER'S POSITION, HAS BECOME ABSOLUTELY
IMPERATIVE."

-- "ALL NATIONS" SHOULD MORE FAITHFULLY OBSERVE PRIN-
CIPLES CONCERNING "THE ILLEGALITY OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE,
DIRECT OR INDIRECT, IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES."

-- ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN "A MORE POSITIVE TURN OF
DEVELOPMENTS" IN INDOCHINA, THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED
TENSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

AFRICAN DECOLONIZATION SHOULD BE HASTENED, AND THE
NON-ALIGNED SHOULD SUPPORT THE U.N. INDIAN OCEAN "ZONE
OF PEACE" DECLARATION.

-- THE END OF THE INDOCHINA WAR "HAS OPENED A NEW
CHAPTER IN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA,"
AND RAISES THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN
COUNTRIES TO "WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS ... COMMON OBJECTIVES"
OF PEACE, SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT.
"IT IS OUR HOPE THAT CONDITIONS IN OUR IMMEDIATE REGION

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WILL MATURE, IN TIME, FOR THE EVOLUTION OF A TRULY
REGIONAL COMMUNITY BASED ON ABIDING COMMON INTERESTS
AND ASPIRATIONS." A PRACTICAL FIRST STEP TOWARD THIS
END WOULD BE FOR THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED "TO DEVELOP
GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE
PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE" AND "NOT TO PROVIDE
ONE'S TERRITORY AS A SPRINGBOARD OF ATTACK
ON ITS NEIGHBORS."

-- ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THERE IS NEED FOR "URGENT REMIDIAL ACTION" TO STABILIZE PRICES OF LDC COMMODITY EXPORT, TO PROVIDE MORE ECONOMIC ASSITANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LDC PRIMARY RESOURCES, AND TO INCREASE BALANCE OF PAYMENT SUPPORT FACILITIES FOR LDC'S.

COMMENT: THE ONLY NEW OR UNUSUAL ELEMENT WE FIND IN THE SPEECH IS THE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR "EVOLUTION OF A TRULY REGIONAL COMMUNITY." ALTHOUGH HEAVILY QUALIFIED AND CLEARLY NOT EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED SOON, IT IS AS CLOSE AS BURMA HAS COME TO EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME SORT OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. WE HEARD FROM A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE BEFORE THE MEETING THAT IN PREPARING THIS PART OF THE SPEECH THE GUB HAD IN MIND EVENTUAL FORMATION OF AN ORGANIZATION INCLUDING THE ASEAN STATES, THE INDOCHINA STATES, AND BURMA, WHICH WOULD BOTH RESEMBLE ASEAN AND REPLACE IT. HOWEVER, AT GENERAL SAN YU'S DINNER FOR SENATOR MANSFIELD (SEE BELOW), NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF COLONEL TIN OO WAS EMPHATIC ABOUT BURMA'S DESIRE TO ESCHEW MEMBERSHIP IN BLOCS OF ANY KIND; AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT SEIN WIN'S "REGIONAL COMMUNITY" STATEMENT IS MORE PIOUS HOPE THAN OPERATIVE GUB POLICY.

2. BURMESE PRESS ON NON-LIGNED CONFERENCE (UNCL)
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ENCOURAGED NEWSPAPERS TO FOLLOW CLOSELY DEVELOPMENTS PRECEDING AND DURING THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED EXTENSIVE WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS FROM COLOMBO, TAKING CARE TO BALANCE ALL POINTS OF VIEW. FOR INSTANCE, ITEMS ON SRV AND DPRK STATEMENTS WERE MATCHED WITH WARNINGS BY LEE KWAN YEW AND DATUK HUSSEIN ONN ON THE DANGERS OF COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY. ALL NEWSPAPERS CONFIDENTIAL

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FRONT-PAGED IN TOTO U SEIN WIN'S ADDRESS TO THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE AND CARRIED EDITORIALS SUPPORTING BURMA'S STAND. IN GENERAL, EDITORIALS SIMPLY REPEATED OR PLACED EMPHASIS ON SEIN WIN'S PEECH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNTRIES NOT PROVIDING BASES OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS TO LAUNCH ATTACKS ON OTHER COUNTRIES. EDITORIALS AND COLUMNS REFLECTED BURMA'S PRIDE IN BEING ONE OF THE ORIGINABORS OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP.

3. NE WIN TO SWITZERLAND (UNCL)
PRESIDENT NE WIN'S AUGUST 16 DEPARTURE, REPORTED IN THE PREVIOUS WEEKA, WAS CONFIRMED IN THE PRESS AUGUST 19. THE REPORTS SAID HE WAS GOING TO SWITZERLAND "FOR A MEDICAL CHECK-UP" BUT REVEALED NO FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PURPOSES OF DURATION OF THE TRIP. RANGOON

RUMOR MONGERS ARE CLAIMING HE WENT TO EUROPE FOR THE HORSE RACING SEASON; HE WAS AN HABITUE OF THE RANGOON RACE COURSE UNTIL HE ORDERED IT CLOSED DOWN IN 1962.

4. STEPPED UP SECURITY MEASURES (LOU)
IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT SPATE OF GRENADE INCIDENTS IN RANGOON, GUB SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN INCREASED. HOUSE TO HOUSE SEARCHES, USUALLY LATE AT NIGHT, ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY MIS, POLICE, AND PEOPLE'S COUNCIL MEMBERS TO LOOK FOR ARMS AND MUNITIONS AND UNREGISTERED GUESTS. BLACK MARKET GOODS HAVE ALSO BEEN SEIZED DURING THESE SEARCHES. BUSES AND OTHER VEHICLES, INCLUDING MILITARY VEHICLES, ARE BEING RANDOMLY STOPPED FOR SEARCHES AND EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS' IDENTIFICATION PAPERS.
THE INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES MAY BE HAVING SOME IMPACT, SINCE THE GRENADE INCIDENTS HAVE APPARENTLY CEASED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

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5. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS (UNCL)
IN SEARCHING A JEEP STOPPED AT A CHECKPOINT BETWEEN
LASHIO AND MANDALAY, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND POLICE DIS-
COVERED A SHIPMENT OF NARCOTICS VALUED AT KYAT 106,000.
INCLUDED IN THE HAUL WERE APPROXIMATELY 61 LBS. OF RAW
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OPIUM, 2 LBS. OF MORPHINE BASE AND 12 OUNCES OF HEROIN.
IN A SEPARATE ACTION, POLICE SEIZED 42 PACKETS OF
MARIJUANA FROM A DEALER.

6. GRASS ROOTS NARCOTICS ABUSE PREVENTION (UNCL)
THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THE FORMATION OF A NARCOTICS
PREVENTION ORGANIZATION IN LANMADAW TOWNSHIP, RANGOON.
THE TOWNSHIP, LOCATED NEAR THE EMBASSY, IS KNOWN TO BE
AN AREA OF HEAVY DRUG ABUSE.

7. COMMITTEE FORMED TO IMPLEMENT SEDAWGYI PROJECT (UNCL)
THE GUB HAS FORMED A COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE SEDAWGYI
MULTI PURPOSE DAM AND IRRIGATION PROJECT, WHICH IS TO BE
FINANCED BY A \$45.9 MILLION ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN.
THE COMMITTEE IS HEADED BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR AGRI-
CULTURE WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE IRRIGATION
DEPARTMENT SERVING AS SECRETARY. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE
INCLUDE LIAISON AND COORDINATION ACTIVITIES WITH THE
VARIOUS MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND CORPORATIONS

INVOLVED IN THIS LARGE PROJECT. IT IS ALSO SUPPOSED
TO OVERSEE THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM AND KEEP
IT ON SCHEDULE. PRESUMABLY ONE OF THE FIRST TASKS OF
THE COMMITTEE WILL BE TO PASS ON A SHORT LIST OF CON-
SULTANTS FOR ADB APPROVAL. THE EMBASSY IS HOPEFUL THAT
THE LIST WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE U.S. FIRM.

8. VIETNAMESE TRADE DELEGATION IN BURMA (UNCL)
A NINE-EMBER SRV TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN RANGOON
AUGUST 21. THE DELEGATION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO REMAIN

IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL AUGUST 28, IS HOLDING BILATERAL TRADE TALKS WITH GUB AUTHORITIES. TO DATE THE DELEGATION HAS MET WITH THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TRADE AND OTHER TRADE MINISTRY OFFICIALS AS WELL AS WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE GUB MINISTRY OF MINES AND THE VARIOUS MINERAL CORPORATIONS. APPARENTLY THESE TALKS ARE A FOLLOW-ON TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GUB TRADE DELEGATION WHICH VISITED HANOI LAST MONTH (WEEKA #28, ITEM 1). AT THAT TIME A TRADE AGREEMENT ALONG STANDARD TERMS WAS SIGNED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

9. NEW ESSO WELL (LOU)
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THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER MISSION OFFICERS VISITED ESSO'S LATEST WELL, WHICH IS BEING DRILLED BY THE OIL DRILLING SHIP "FREDRICKSBURG" IN CONCESSION BLOCK 10 ABOUT 80 MILES WEST OF TAVOY. DRILLING HAS PROGRESSED TO ABOUT 4600 FEET, WITH A TOTAL DEPTH OF 10,000 FEET PLANNED. NO HYDROCARBONS HAVE BEEN FOUND THUS FAR, AND ESSO OFFICIALS DO NOT APPEAR OPTIMISTIC. THIS IS ESSO'S SEVENTH OFF-SHORE BURMA WELL OUT OF EIGHT IT IS COMMITTED TO DRILL.

10. LAO PRESIDENT STOPS OVER (UNCL)
LAO PRESIDENT SOUPHANOVONG AND PARTY STOPPED OVER FOR AN HOUR IN RANGOON AUGUST 21 ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM COLOMBO. THEY WERE MET BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN AND OTHER RANKING OFFICIALS.

11. DELEGATIONS BEGIN GOURS TO USSR, US (UNCL)
A FIVE-MEMBER YOUTH DELEGATION LEFT FOR MOSCOW FOR A TEN-DAY VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF KOMSOMOL; A TWO-MAN EDUCATIONAL DELEGATION, HEADED BY EDUCATION DEPUTY MINISTER U MYINT AUNG, LEFT FOR THE U.S. ON A 19-DAY TOUR OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN HAWAII; A TWO-MAN EDITORIAL DELEGATION, HEADED BY NEW LIGHT OF BURMA EDITOR U SOE MAUNG, IS DUE TO LEAVE FOR USSR AUGUST 26 FOR TWO WEEKS; AND TWO JOURNALIST DELEGATIONS ARE DUE TO LEAVE DURING SEPTEMBER FOR THE FRG AND THE GDR FOR TWO WEEKS EACH.

12. NEW ENVOYS TO TURKEY, FROM IRAQ (UNCL)
U THA TUN, BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY.
MOHAMMAD SAID AL-SAHHAF, IRAQ'S AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO BURMA.

13. TREMORS REPORTED IN BURMA (UNCL)
THE BURMESE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE HAS REPORTED A SERIES OF FIVE SLIGHT EARTHQUAKES BETWEEN AUGUST 17TH AND 20TH CENTERED IN THE HILLS ABOUT 125 MILES NORTH OF RANGOON.
NEIGHER DAMAGE NOR LOSS OF LIFE HAS BEEN REPORTED AS A

RESULT OF THESE TREMORS.

THE BURMESE ALSO REPORTED THE AUGUST 16TH QUAKE IN SZECHWAN TO HAVE BEEN CENTERED SOUTH AND WEST OF CHENGTU (104 E LONG BY 30.8 N LAT). THIS CONFLICTS WITH OTHER REPORTS WHICH

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PLACE THE QUAKE ABOUT 120 MILES NORTH OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. COMMENT: LIMITED EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL MAKE THE ACCURACY OF THIS OBSERVATION QUESTIONABLE.

14. CODEL MANSFIELD PAYS FAREWELL VISIT (CONF)

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD, ACCCOMPANIED BY AIDES FRANK VALEO AND NORVILLE JONES, VISITED RANGOON FROM AUGUST 17 TO 20. ALTHOUGH THE SENATOR HAD HOPED FOR A DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN, THE LATTER DEPARTED ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 16. AT A DINNER HOSTED BY BRIGADIER SAN YU ON AUGUST 25, THE SENATOR HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM. HE WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY OF GUB EFFORTS. WHEN HE ASKED WHETHER FINAL SUCCESS IN POPPY ERADICATION COULD EVER BE ACHIEVED, COL. TIN OO REPLIED THAT TI COULD, BUT THE PROBLEM MUST BE ATTACKED "IN STAGES," AND THIS WOULD TAKE QUITE SOME TIME. WHEN HIS HOST MENTIONED CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, THE SENATOR GAVE RATHER CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES THAT THE USG WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH INSURGENTS TO MAKE PREEMPTIVE PURCHASES OF OPIUM.

15. STATE COUNCIL MEMBER DIES (LOU)

STATE COUNCIL MEMBER COLONEL KYAW WIN DIED AND WAS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS IN THE PRESENCE OF MOST RANKING GUB LEADERS. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS HE WAS NOT ESPECIALLY INFLUENTIAL AND HAD LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE POWER.

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